

LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 11, 1968

1. ✓ Setting of the 1968-69 Migratory Bird Seasons:

Rails	(2)
Woodcocks	(3)
Morning Dove	(3)
Snipe	(3)
Gallinules	(4)

2. ✓ Report on the cancellation of the 1968 Teal Season. (4)

3. ✓ Director's statement that Commission had no part in (6)
sponsoring recent fish fry given for State Legislators.

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A Special Meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held in the Conference Room of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Office, on Quail Drive, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Thursday, July 11, 1968. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the season dates for 1968-69 on Migratory Birds as prescribed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's framework. The meeting was open to the public.

Members present at the meeting were:

Jerry G. Jones, Chairman

H. Clay Wright, Vice-Chairman

H. B. Fairchild

Clarence A. Guidry

John Edwin Kyle, Jr.

Hobson Norris

Jimmie Thompson

ABSENT: None

Chairman Jones called the meeting to order asking Mr. Joe Herring to explain the framework received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Herring stated the following framework for Louisiana was received from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

RAILS: King and Clapper - September 1, 1968 - January 15, 1969

Total of 70 days, daily bag 15 in aggregate and possession 30.

Sora and Virginia Rails - September 1, 1968 - January 15, 1969.

Total of 70 days, daily bag 25 singly or in aggregate and possession 25.

WOODCOCK: September 1, 1968 - January 31, 1969

Split season, if desired without penalty. Total 65 days.

Daily bag limit 5 and possession limit 10.

MORNING DOVE: September 1, 1968 - January 15, 1969.

Shooting hours: 12 noon to sunset. Total 70 - half days.

Either straight 70 day season or split season of 3 periods.

SNIPE: September 1, 1968 - January 31, 1969.

Total 50 days, Daily Bag limit 8 and possession 16.

GALLINULES: September 1, 1968 - January 15, 1969.

Total 70 days, Daily Bag limit 15 and possession 30.

Mr. Herring then gave the recommended dates for the above mentioned seasons as submitted by the Commission's biologists.

On motion of Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, the following resolution establishing the rail season was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission does hereby declare the following 1968-69 season for Rails:

King and Clapper Rails - November 2, 1968 through January 10, 1969. Daily Bag Limit 15 and Possession Limit 30, in aggregate.

Sora and Virginia Rails - November 2, 1968 through January 10, 1969. Daily Bag Limit 25 and Possession Limit 25, singly or in aggregate.

On motion of Mr. Fairchild, seconded by Mr. Wright, the following resolution establishing the woodcock was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the 1968-69 Woodcock Season shall be November 28, 1968 through January 31, 1969 for a period of 65 full days, with the Daily Bag Limit of 5 and the Possession Limit of 10.

On motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Guidry, the following resolution establishing the dove season was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the 1968-69 Morning Dove Season shall be split into three periods: September 1, 1968 through September 15, 1968, a total of 15 days; October 19 through November 24, 1968, a total of 37 days; December 19, 1968 through January 5, 1969, a total of 18 days. Shooting hours shall be from 12 noon to sunset each day, therefore, there shall be a total of 70 half days hunting for Morning Dove.

On motion of Mr. Fairchild, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the following resolution establishing the snipe season was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the 1968-69 Snipe Season shall be for a period of 50 days, December 13, 1968 through January 31, 1969, with the Daily Bag Limit of 8 and Possession Limit of 16.

On motion of Mr. Kyle, seconded by Mr. Wright, the following resolution establishing the gallinule was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission that the 1968-69 Gallinules Season shall be September 1, 1968 through October 20, 1968, with the Daily Bag Limit of 15 and the Possession Limit of 30.

Chairman Jones then requested Mr. Richard Yancey to give the Commission a report on the Teal Season.

Mr. Yancey explained that an early September Teal Hunting Season for the coming year has been canceled by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Between 1950 and 1967, our records show that blue winged teal migrate through Louisiana beginning in mid August and ending in late October. The blue winged teal are gone by the time our regular duck season starts in November. Mr. Yancey said it took Louisiana eight (8) years to get the first early September teal season which was in 1965. He stated that in September, 1965 Hurricane Betsy hit Louisiana, hindering many of the hunters from taking advantage of the season and only

66,000 were bagged. The following year the hunters bagged about 100,000 blue winged teal, Mr. Yancey said, and last year in September, 1967 there were approximately 167,000 teal taken during the season. This three year experimental season was held in 19 other states which comprised the Mississippi Flyway and Central Flyway. Mr. Yancey explained the September teal season provided our hunters with an opportunity to take birds that winter further south in Central and South America. Only about 3 percent of the fall flight were taken during the first two seasons. Mr. Yancey continued by reporting that the entire Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission Members and several of the personnel met in Washington to urge continuation of the September Teal Hunting Season; however, about 7 or 8 days ago, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced there will be no September Teal Season in the Mississippi or Central Flyways in 1968. The reasons given for the cancellation were that there were too many green winged teal taken and too many violations. Mr. Yancey explained that solutions to these problems were readily available, that the seasons were biologically sound, and that the cancellation of the season was totally unjustified. Only about 2 or 3 percent of the total kill of ducks were of species other than teal in Louisiana and no unusual enforcement problems occurred.

Chairman Jones said, "Apparently, they have disregarded completely everything we have submitted to them. It appears to me that this Commission ought to ask the Congress to investigate

why the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service consistently ignores the information that we set up, that's the documented facts. Every year we send our people out, we spend a lot of money to do it, we go up there and we present the facts to them and then, they give us these two reasons which are completely baseless. It is going to do us no good now, for example, to send a telegram that we object."

Mr. Thompson said, "I am ready to start objecting now for next year."

Chairman Jones continued by saying "It appears to me that there is something wrong with the way that the decisions are made in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Mr. Thompson recommended that Louisiana pursue the fight for an early September Teal Season for next year, leaving no stones unturned. He suggested a report be given each month as to the progress in obtaining this season.

Mr. Kyle said the Commission has fought for this season for years and suggested that the sportsmen contact the members of the Congressional Delegations now and request their assistance to give us our teal season.

Dr. Glasgow said the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to reduce the number of their enforcement personnel in Louisiana this season, rather than increasing the number, which is very impracticable as enforcement violations was the main reason for their cancellation of the early September Teal Season. Dr. Glasgow reiterated the

fact that every effort must be made and continued or Louisiana will be moving backwards.

Chairman Jones asked if there was any other matters for discussion.

Dr. Glasgow stated that the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission had no part in sponsoring the recent fish fry given for the state legislators. No expenditures, whatsoever, were taken from the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. The fish fry was given by a few of the employees on their own time and paid for with their own finances.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, on motion of Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the meeting was adjourned.


Leslie L. Glasgow, Director